

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

In the Township of South Brunswick

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 3, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of The Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 1 in the Township of South Brunswick, was called to order at 7:21 p.m. by Chairman William Orchard, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Commissioners Tarnowski, Behrend, Rosenberg, Orchard and Olson

Members absent: none

**Flag Salute:** completed

**Agenda Changes:** none

**Address From the Public:** none

**Approval of February Regular Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the minutes and written and Mr. Tarnowski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

**Reports:**

Line Activities – Chief Perez was not present, however, he contacted Mr. Orchard and indicated that the decision on what was to become of the brush truck was an open issue.

President - was not present at the meeting.

Treasurer/Voucher List - Mr. Rosenberg presented the report (file copy attached) and explained some of the voucher payments. Highlights were:

- Why was the gas bill was so high? The thermostat had been set way too high, therefore a lock box was installed and the Rescue Squad has been informed of this action.
- Mr. Rosenberg will be looking into a payment schedules for Truck 221 to determine if it might be advisable to pay if off.
- The cost for the election went over budget due to the facts that more ballots were ordered and another poll clerk was used. The difference was about \$20.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that a new computer is a necessity, as the existing system is extremely slow. He made a motion to purchase a new desk top computer to replace the existing one and look into a lap top, not to exceed \$2K for both units; Mr. Tarnowski seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed. Mr. Tarnowski will do some investigation into appropriate systems.

Mr. Olson made a motion to accept the Voucher List as presented and Mr. Behrend seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Secretary – Mr. Olson had nothing to report.

Fire Coordinator – Mr. Corris presented his report (file copy attached). The report was straight forward and there was no discussion on any item.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that there is a dual axle car carrier trailer being housed at Station 23 and has not been used for its intended purpose, which was to carry two 400 lb. extinguishers. Mr. Corris stated that they were never put on or tested and noted that it was decided not to use them, as the cost of testing was too high. Mr. Rosenberg suggested trying to sell the trailer on an on-line service and Mr. Corris stated that “GovDeals” might be the appropriate avenue for it and the extinguishers. He presented sample documents (Sale of Property and Resolution) that would allow the Board to sell items, without having to go through an attorney. Additional guidelines were presented to the Board. Mr. Corris explained that an account would need to be established with GovDeals, at a cost of 7.5% of the selling price. Should the item not be sold, there is no charge.

It was decided to try using GovDeals to sell the trailer and the extinguishers. If it works out well, the Board could use it to get rid of Truck 224 (Hummer). Mr. Corris will get the appropriate paperwork together and present it at next month’s meeting.

Mr. Orchard questioned that status of correcting the violations from the fire inspections at Station 23. Mr. Corris stated that two tiles have been replaced and a vendor has been located to handle the quarterly and annual sprinkler tests. They will do both firehouses on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman – Mr. Orchard had three items to bring up:

1. The LOSAP check must be held until Lincoln Financial receives and certifies the list of eligible participants. The certified listing must accompany the check.
2. A letter has been received indicating that the lending institution for the addition to the New Road Firehouse requires that the lease between the District and the Fire Company must extend through the life of the loan (approximately 20 years). Mr. Braslow is investigating whether this request is legal. Mr. Behrend stated that he could foresee a lot of problematic issues. The Commissioners discussed this issue and its ramifications. Mr. Orchard will contact Mr. Braslow and let the Commissioners know what his advice is.

3. A letter was received regarding the fire inspectors issue and a request for financial assistance. Mr. Rosenberg suggested writing a letter to the Township Administrator stating that the Board would provide \$40K of assistance and also that the five full-time deputy inspectors must be retained. Mr. Behrend noted that at the Joint Board meeting it was stated four inspectors would be able to handle the work load. Currently, the make up is four and a half part-time employees. The Commissioners discussed what options were available, should Mr. Watkins not accept their terms. It was noted that there seems to be a lot of conflicting information coming from the Administrator. Mr. Rosenberg stated that it might be more advantageous to work through the Township Committee.

Mr. Behrend suggested that a letter be written to Mr. Watkins, responding to his letter and indicating that it does not address the issues. It was decided that further discussion on this issue would be moved to an Executive Session prior to adjournment.

Chairman Orchard thanked everyone for coming out to vote for the budget and Commissioners Behrend and Tarnowski. He also thanked all the Commissioners for the work done the past year and what a pleasure it has been. Mr. Rosenberg stated that the working relationship with the Rescue Squad and Fire Company has made marked improvement in the past year.

#### **Standing Committee Reports:**

*Fire Company Liaison* – Mr. Behrend did not have anything to report.

*Rescue Squad Liaison* – Mr. Tarnowski had nothing to report. He will continue as liaison.

*Public Relations* – Mr. Orchard stated that in a conversation with Mr. Lew Swartz, he would be willing to help the District out in any capacity, particularly at Station 23. Mr. Orchard suggested possibly assisting Mr. Behrend with the newsletter. As the Spring Newsletter is on the way to the printer and Wolfcat Productions are extremely helpful, additional help did not seem necessary. After a discussion about options, it was decided to ask Mr. Swatz if he would be interested in being the District's representative to the media and also to Township issues, as they relate to the fire service.

*State Association* – The meeting will be held this Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, in Adelphia. Commissioners Orchard and Rosenberg will not be able to attend, due to a scheduled

received, will probably be discussed. He reported that District 1 took care of the issue for all three districts and they have received their entitlements. Mr. Behrend will attend.

*Joint Board* – nothing to report.

*Insurance* – Mr. Orchard reported that a check for overpayment of \$2400+ was received. In addition, the \$13K discussed at last month's meeting, does not need to be paid.

*Station 23* – previously discussed.

**Unfinished Business:**

Rescue Truck – nothing to report.

Rehab Truck – Mr. Rosenberg stated that Mr. Weis that things are in place and training has taken place. There needs to be guidelines established as to when the Rehab Truck should go to an incident. Mr. Weis will work on this issue.

Truck 224 – previously discussed.

**New Business:** Mr. Rosenberg stated that the District needs to establish a travel policy.

**Executive Session:** The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the fire inspector issue and also a travel policy. They came out at 9:04 p.m.

**Address From The Public:** none

**Adjournment:** As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Olson seconded it. A vote was taken and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie R. L. Knigge

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